

1     In the Claims:

1     1.     (original) A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:

2           a)     a collar;

3           b)     a leash; and

4           c)     a pair of retractors;

5     wherein said leash is retractably connected to said  
6     collar by said pair of retractors.

1     2.     (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said

2           collar is slender; and

3           wherein said collar is elongated.

1     3.     (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 1,

2           wherein said collar has a pair of ends;

3           wherein said collar has a ring; and

4           wherein said ring of said collar is attached to ~~the~~ a  
5           first end of said collar by said first end of said collar  
6           passing therethrough, doubling back onto itself, and  
7           being affixed to itself.

1     4.     (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 3,

2           wherein ~~the~~ a second end of said collar passes freely  
3           through said ring of said collar, doubles back onto  
4           itself, and is adjustably and replaceably affixed to  
5           itself by hook and loop fasteners; and

6           wherein said hook and loop fasteners of said collar are  
7           disposed on facing surfaces of said second end of said  
8           collar.

1 5. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
2 leash is slender;  
3 wherein said leash is elongated.

1 6. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
2 leash has a pair of ends; and  
3 wherein said pair of ends of said leash are operatively  
4 connected to said pair of retractors, respectively.

1 7. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said  
2 pair of retractors are diametrically opposed to each  
3 other; and  
4 wherein said pair of retractors are attached to said  
5 collar.

1 8. (original) The tether as defined in claim 6, wherein each  
2 retractor comprises a housing;  
3 wherein each retractor comprises a retracting mechanism;  
4 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is  
5 operatively connected within said housing of an  
6 associated retractor; and  
7 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is  
8 operatively connected to an associated end of said leash.

1 9. (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said  
2 housing of each retractor is generally cylindrically-  
3 shaped; and  
4 wherein said housing of each retractor extends generally  
5 normally to said collar.

- 1     10.    (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said  
2           housing of each retractor has a slit;  
3           wherein said slit in said housing of each retractor  
4           extends axially therealong; and  
5           wherein said leash extends through said slit in said  
6           housing of each retractor.
- 1     11.    (original) The tether as defined in claim 10, wherein  
2           said retracting mechanism of each retractor comprises an  
3           axle; and  
4           wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor  
5           comprises a recoilable spring.
- 1     12.    (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,  
2           wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each  
3           retractor extends axially within said housing of said  
4           retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor;  
5           wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each  
6           retractor extends rotatably within said housing of said  
7           retracting mechanism of said associated retractor; and  
8           wherein an end of said leash extends through said slit  
9           in said housing of said associated retractor and is  
10          attached to said axle of said retracting mechanism of  
11          said associated retractor.
- 1     13.    (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,  
2           wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting  
3           mechanism of each retractor operatively connects said  
4           axle of said retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated  
5           retractor to said housing of said associated retractor.

- 1 14. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,  
2 wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting  
3 mechanism of each retractor allows said leash to freely  
4 recoil and be automatically wrapped around said axle of  
5 said retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor  
6 when tension is removed from said leash.
- 1 15. (original) The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein  
2 each retractor comprises a ratchet mechanism.
- 1 16. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 15,  
2 wherein said ratchet mechanism of each retractor  
3 operatively connects said axle of said retracting  
4 mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor to said housing  
5 of said associated retractor.
- 1 17. (original) The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein  
2 said ratchet mechanism of each retractor does not allow  
3 said leash to freely recoil and be automatically wrapped  
4 around said axle of said retracting mechanism of an  
5 associated retractor when tension is removed from said  
6 leash, but rather requires an initial tug on said leash  
7 and maintaining tension thereon to release said ratchet  
8 mechanism of said associated retractor to cause said  
9 leash to wrap around said axle of said retracting  
10 mechanism of said associated retractor.